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FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9443
INFO RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1600
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1778
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEPADJ/CJTF-HOA J2X CAMP LEMONIER DJ
RUMICEA/JICCENT MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 000072

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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E
LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/13/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [PINR](#) [ER](#)

SUBJECT: REPORTED ARRESTS OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS FOR
CORRUPTION

REF: 07 ASMARA 936

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen for reason 1.4 (d).

(C) Eritrean National Security (ANS) reportedly arrested four or five immigration officials in charge of issuing exit visas on, or before, February 13. One arrested official, by the name of Ghile, apparently was responsible for making the final decision on the eligibility of the applicants. According to Post sources, Ghile regularly accepted bribes of 20,000 nakfa (\$1,333) in exchange for issuing illegal exit visas, a fact commonly known in Asmara. Post sources state that ANS officials have been suspicious of immigration officials for some time, a fact which may account for the addition of multiple ANS document checkpoints at the airport in recent months.
MCMULLEN